

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicants : Masahiro SAMEI et al.

Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned

Appl. No. : 10/576,307

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014649)

I.A. Filed : April 19, 2006

Confirmation No. : Not Yet Assigned

For : FIXING APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-

1.98, Applicants hereby submit the following documents:

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-074007, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on pages 1, 2, and 4 of the specification of the above-captioned application.
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2004-145368, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document is cited on page 4 of the specification of the above-captioned application.
- (3) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005-0201768 to TATEMATSU et al., which was published on September 15, 2005.

- (4) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005-0199613 to SAMEI et al., which was published on September 15, 2005.
- (5) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004-0161270 to ASAKURA et al., which was published on August 19, 2004.
- (6) U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006-0099001 to ASAKURA et al., which was published on May 11, 2006.
- (7) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/554,945.
- (8) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,356.
- (9) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,353.
- (10) U.S. Patent Application No. 10/565,270.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to PCT/JP2004/014649. Copies of the International Search Report (in Japanese and English) have been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus be available to the Examiner for review.

- (11) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-148983, together with an English language Abstract of the same.
- (12) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-328550, together with an English language Abstract of the same.
- (13) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-319312, together with an English language Abstract of the same, and patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,526,103 to KATO et al., which issued on June 11, 1996.

The relevance of the documents cited in the International Search Report, as ascertained by the International Examiner, are set forth in the International Search

Report.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to wave the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if the U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patent, patent application publications and patent applications are not enclosed herewith. Further, since the International Bureau is assumed to have sent copies of the documents cited in the International Search Report to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, copies of these documents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.


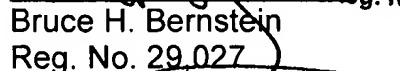
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted documents (1) and (2) are attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

June 29, 2006  
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Respectfully submitted,  
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FORM PTO-1449

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark OfficeAtty. Docket No.  
P29836Application No.  
10/576,307

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
BY APPLICANT**  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Applicant  
Akihiro SAMEI et al.Filing Date  
I.A. Filed October 5, 2004Group  
Not Yet Assigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2005 /	0 2 0 1 7 6 8	09/15/05	TATEMATSU et al.			
	2005 /	0 1 9 9 6 1 3	09/15/05	SAMEI et al.			
	2004 /	0 1 6 1 2 7 0	08/19/04	ASAKURA et al.			
	2006 /	0 0 9 9 0 0 1	05/11/06	ASAKURA et al.			
		5 5 2 6 1 0 3	06/11/96	KATO et al.			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	10	- 0 7 4 0 0 7	03/17/98	JAPAN				
	2004	- 1 4 5 3 6 8	05/20/04	JAPAN				
	2002	- 1 4 8 9 8 3	05/22/02	JAPAN				
	2002	- 3 2 8 5 5 0	11/15/02	JAPAN				
	7	- 3 1 9 3 1 2	12/08/95	JAPAN				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	1	English Language Abstract of JP 10-074007.
	2	English Language Abstract of JP 2004-145368.
	3	English Language Abstract of JP 2002-148983.
	4	English Language Abstract of JP 2002-328550.
	5	English Language Abstract of JP 7-319312.
	6	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/554,945 to YASUDA et al., filed April 11, 2006.
	7	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,356 to YASUDA et al., filed April 11, 2006.
	8	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/575,353 to YASUDA et al., filed April 11, 2006.
	9	U.S. Patent Application No. 10/565,270 to YASUDA et al., filed April 11, 2006.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.